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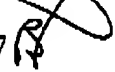
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INFORMAL

CALLED TEL. NO.: (703) 872 9637 
TO : Examiner John S. Maples, Art Unit 1745
FROM : Greenblum & Bernstein, P.L.C.
 attn: Joshua M. Povsner
DATE : March 20, 2003
SUBJECT : U.S. Patent Application No. 09/614,769 in the names of Shinji
 HAMADA et al., entitled "Battery Module, and Rechargeable Battery
 for Constituting the Battery Module"; Our Ref: P19757

Dear Mr. Maples:

Pursuant to our conversation this morning, we confirm that our client has agreed to the following Examiner's amendments to claims 1 and 15. Please do not hesitate to contact us if there are any questions or concerns.

1. A rechargeable battery, comprising:
 - a prismatic cell case having short lateral walls and long lateral walls;
 - a group of electrodes accommodated inside the cell case, the group of electrodes including a plurality of positive and negative electrode plates arranged alternately and substantially in parallel to the long lateral walls of the cell case with an intervening separator therebetween; and
 - a plurality of collector plates, wherein lateral edges of respective lead portions of the positive electrode plates and the negative electrode plates are attached to the collector plates, whereby the group of electrodes is held by the collector plates;
 - wherein said lateral edges of the positive electrode plates protrude beyond the negative electrode plates on one side, and said lateral edges of the negative electrode plates

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protrude beyond the group of positive electrode plates on the opposite side, the protruding portions forming the lead portions; and

wherein an open upper [open ends] end of the prismatic cell [cases are] case is closed by an integral lid member.

15. A rechargeable battery, comprising:

a prismatic cell case having short lateral walls and long lateral walls;

a group of electrodes accommodated inside the cell case, the group of electrodes including a plurality of positive and negative electrode plates arranged alternately and substantially in parallel to the long lateral walls of the cell case with an intervening separator therebetween; and

a plurality of collector plates, wherein lateral edges of respective lead portions of the positive electrode plates and the negative electrode plates are attached to the collector plates, whereby the group of electrodes is held by the collector plates;

wherein said lateral edges of the positive electrode plates protrude beyond the negative electrode plates on one side, and said lateral edges of the negative electrode plates protrude beyond the group of positive electrode plates on the opposite side, the protruding portions forming the lead portions; and

wherein each collector plate is of a single substantially C-shaped configuration to restrict the group of positive electrode plates and the group of negative electrode plates.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards.

Bruce H. Bernstein

Joshua M. Povsner